Attorney Docket No. 030687

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Group Art Unit: 2877

PATENT APPLICATION

In re application of

PATRICK J. TREADO, et al.

NEAR INFRARED CHEMICAL IMAGING MICROSCOPE

(Continuation of Serial No. 09/976,391 filed October 12, 2001)

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219 February 5, 2004

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this document.

Amendments to the Claims begin on Page 3 of this document.

Remarks begin on Page 4 of this document.